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1973-1974

8 March 1974

DOCUMENT 392/73

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the amendment to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 371/73) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 as regards the definition of liqueur wine and of certain grape musts

Rapporteur: Mr Francis VALS

PE 36.133/fin.

1870-1871

1872-1873

1874-1875

1876-1877

1878

1879

1880-1881

1882-1883

1884-1885

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1888-1889

By letter of 12 February 1974, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty, to deliver an opinion on an amendment to the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 as regards the definition of liqueur wine and of certain grape musts.

On 14 February 1974 the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Vals rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 28 February/1 March 1974.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution

The following were present: Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Aigner (deputizing for Mr Lückner), Mr Brégégère (deputizing for Mr Vals), Mr De Koning, Mr Frehsee, Mr Lefèbvre, Mr Ligios, Mr Liogier, Mr Radoux (deputizing for Miss Lulling).

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the amendment to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 as regards the definition of liqueur wine and of certain grape musts.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the amendment to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (74) 143 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 371/73),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 392/73),
1. approves the proposal for a regulation;
 2. instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Council Regulation No. 2592/73 of 24 September 1973,¹ amending Regulation No. 816/70 of 28 April, 1970,² lays down the maximum total sulphur dioxide content of wines other than sparkling wines and of liqueurs intended for direct human consumption in the Community.

The content may not exceed:

- 200 mg/l for red wine,
- 250 mg/l for white wine.

2. There are substantial differences between the legislative provisions of Member States in respect of this maximum content, as shown by the table below:

Germany

Röti	400 mg/l
Trie	350 mg/l
other wines	300 mg/l

France

all wines	350 mg/l
except certain sweet wines	400 mg/l

Italy

all wines	200 mg/l
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Belgium

all wines	450 mg/l
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Netherlands

all wines	450 mg/l
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Luxembourg

all wines	250 mg/l
except certain sweet wines (liqueur wines)	300 mg/l

In most third countries, the corresponding values ranged from 300 mg to 450 mg/l.

¹ OJ No. L 269, 26 September 1973

² OJ No. L 99, 5 May 1970

3. The Council accordingly made allowance for this difference by introducing into the above Regulation No. 2592/73 a double exemption, valid for a transitional period of adjustment from 1 October 1973 to 31 August 1976 and applicable to wines produced in the wine-growing regions of the Community, permitting contents exceeding those mentioned above as from 1 October 1973. These exemptions are as follows:

4. - the maximum sulphur dioxide content may be raised to 400 mg/l for certain imported quality white wines grown in specific regions and for certain imported quality white wines having special production and processing characteristics.

5. - the maximum sulphur dioxide content may be raised to 300 mg/l for white wines and to 250 mg/l for red wines having a residual sugar content of not less than 5 g/l, expressed as invert sugar. Unlike the previous one, this exemption applies only to wines produced in the Community.

6. The proposal for a regulation submitted to Parliament aims to extend this second exemption to similar wines imported from third countries for the same transitional period of adjustment which expires on 31 August 1976.

7. Given the urgent need to review the situation, the Commission of the European Communities proposes to introduce this amendment within the framework of the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 of 28 April 1970 as regards the definition of liqueur wine and of certain grape musts.¹

8. The Committee on Agriculture approves the proposal for a regulation submitted to it and recommends Parliament to adopt it.

¹ see report drawn up by Mr Vals on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Doc. 363/73 of 12 February 1974.

